

SCHOOL of MUSIC

Where PASSION is *heard*

KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament Presenting the “Partial-Ment”

Sam Skelton, *Reeds*
Rob Opitz, *Trumpet/Flugelhorn*
Tyrone Jackson, *Piano*
Marc Miller, *Bass*
Justin Chesarek, *Drums*

Thursday, October 1, 2020 | 7:30 PM

Presented virtually from Morgan Concert Hall of the Bailey Performance Center

PROGRAM

Selections will be announced from the stage.

BIOGRAPHIES

Justin Chesarek

Percussionist Justin Chesarek began gigging at the age of twelve with Pittsburgh jazz legend Harold Betters and spent time listening to Roger Humphries live, well-known for his work with Horace Silver.

After earning a Bachelors of Music in Music Education from Slippery Rock University, Justin pursued a Masters of Music and Jazz Studies at Georgia State University. Along the way, Chesarek filled his gig calendar, making a name for himself as an exceptional musician.

He performs regularly with Joe Alterman, Trey Wright, Gary Motley, The Joe Gransden Big Band, the ATL Collective, and he is a regular at the Atlanta Jazz Festival. He has performed at The Iridium and The Blue Note in New York, Washington D.C's Kennedy Center, a TED Talk, the Juneau Jazz and Classics Festival in Alaska, The North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland, and the Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

Chesarek teaches Jazz Percussion at Kennesaw State University, he is the Artist Affiliate of Jazz Percussion at Emory University, and he runs a private studio of his own, working with students of all ages.

His students have gone on to become professional touring musicians, off-broadway theater pit players, and top call Atlanta drummers. He is a board member of the Atlanta Lovers of Music Association, and a proud endorser of Regal Tip drum sticks, mallets, and brushes.

Justin lives in Decatur, with his wife and daughter.



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COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
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Tyrone Jackson

The name Tyrone Jackson is quickly becoming synonymous with the quintessential jazz piano player. Born in the New Orleans cradle of jazz, Jackson embodies the spirit of the Crescent City.

As a composer, Jackson has composed original music for the Alliance theater's productions of "Native Guard", "Tell Me My Dream" and "Ethel". Additionally, Jackson has composed and recorded 4 CD's and performed on countless others. His newest CD, "From The Mind Of" is a testament of his ability to crossover genre lines. Jackson has performed with Steve Turre, Larry Carlton, Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Vincent Gardner, Joe Lovano, Jennifer Holliday, Russell Malone, and Marcus Miller. Currently Tyrone Jackson is a professor at Kennesaw State University where he is Lecturer of Jazz Piano and teaches a myriad of classes.

Marc Miller

Marc Miller joined Kennesaw State University in 2010. Starting on tuba in elementary school, he picked up electric bass in middle school and double bass in college. Studying under Melanie Punter and Bill Peterson, Marc completed his bachelor's degree at Florida State University in jazz studies. He then went on to study under John Fremgen and David Neubert at the University of Texas at Austin, completing his master's degree in performance in 2002.

Comfortable in any musical style, Marc has performed and recorded with many jazz artists, rock groups, tango, hip-hop, flamenco, salsa, and folk ensembles. While in Austin he was a member of pioneering jazz group Blaze, winner of the Austin Music Awards Best Jazz Group for several years running. He has performed regularly with Bob Reynolds, Jason Marsalis, and Lizz Wright. He has also shared the stage with Tim Hagans, Bob Brookmeyer, Wynton Marsalis, Marcus Printup, and Mike Stern. Marc can be heard performing around town in a variety of ensembles, encompassing many genres of music.

He is a regular member of the Trey Wright Trio and the Mace Hibbard Group, appearing on their most recent albums, as well as many other local jazz ensembles. Additionally, he performs with salsa groups Orquesta Macuba and Vecinos Del Mundo, pit orchestras at the Fox, The Atlanta Pops Orchestra, and many other local artists.



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Rob Opitz

Rob Opitz holds the title of Artist-in-Residence in Jazz Trumpet at Kennesaw State University. Originally from Illinois, Mr. Opitz's career has ranged from elementary music, to middle school, high school, and now at the collegiate level. Mr. Opitz has been the Director of Bands at Marietta High School, Creekview High School, Barber Middle School, and Reinhardt University.

Rob is a very active performer. Recently, Rob completed a 4 week tour with international superstar Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds. The tour featured multiple US Cities, Austin City Limits, and the Jimmy Kimmel show. Rob is the founder and director of his own group, the Atlanta Latin Jazz Orchestra – an 18 piece big band featuring the music of some of the greats in Latin Jazz.

He has also appeared as a sideman with Tito Puente, Louis Bellson, Marian McPartland, Rufus Reid, Hal Crook, Marshal Royal, Jon Faddis, Diane Schuur, Paquito D'Rivera, Cladio Roditi, Bob Mintzer, and many more. Rob has performed in local groups in the metro Atlanta Area, including Orquesta MaCuba, the Georgia Symphony Orchestra Jazz Ensemble, Yacht Rock Revue, Bumpin' the Mango, Bogey and the Viceroy, the Joe Gransden Big Band, Macon Pops Orchestra, and numerous others.

Rob has been married to a terrific woman and Pre-K teacher, Stacie, for over 20 years and has two wonderful sons, Michael and Zach – both of whom are musicians.

Sam Skelton

A native of Conyers, Georgia, Sam Skelton has been active on the Atlanta music scene for well over three decades. Mr. Skelton graduated summa cum laude from Georgia State University with a degree in Jazz Studies. During his course of study at GSU, Sam was a Montgomery Music Scholar and a two-time fellowship recipient to the Aspen Music Festival. He continued his saxophone studies with Kenneth Radnofsky at Boston University in 1991 focusing on classical saxophone and music education. Other teachers include David and James "Dub" Hudson and Jeff Benedict.

Sam is currently Director of Jazz Studies and Senior Lecturer in Saxophone at Kennesaw State University. He is also Artistic Director of GSO Jazz and GYSO Jazz. Sam served as Professor of Saxophone at Georgia State University from 1991 to 2004 and was Jazz Ensemble Director at Georgia Tech from 2002-2004 and Artist-in-Residence at The University Of Georgia Jazz Department. He served as Visiting Professor of Saxophone at Furman University 2001-02. Professional associations include: The Jazz Educators Network, Georgia Music Educators Association, Georgia Association of Jazz Educators, National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (voting member) and the American Federation of Musicians. For his contributions to the city's cultural life, Atlanta Public Broadcasting named him a "Lexus Leader in the Arts" in 2003. Sam is proud to be a Conn-Selmer and D'Addario Artist.

